



SHAMANN WALTON

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SUPERVISOR WALTON'S STATEMENT ON THE UNANIMOUS PASSAGE OF THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOLUTION

Every February, San Francisco takes this time to reflect on the achievements, contributions, and rich cultural heritage of Black Americans—both in our city and across the nation. Former Supervisors Sophie Maxwell and Dr. Reverend Amos Brown initiated a resolution celebrating Black History Month in San Francisco at the Board of Supervisors many years ago. Last week, I continued this tradition and introduced a [resolution](#) celebrating Black History Month in San Francisco. For many of us, we celebrate Black History every day of the year.

Black History Month was started in 1926 by the great historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. The month of February is also significant for the birthdays of great African American pioneers and institutions, including William Edward Burghardt (W.E.B.) Du Bois, Langston Hughes, Eubie Black, Rosa Parks, Alice Walker, Leontyne Price, Toni Morrison, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the first Pan African Congress.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month during the celebration of the United States Bicentennial, and every president has recognized Black History Month ever since. February is now nationally recognized as Black History Month throughout the United States and various parts of the world.

However, today, we are witnessing widespread attacks on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives across the country—efforts that are not just an attack on Black communities, but also on communities of color, queer and transgender communities, immigrants, people with disabilities, women, and more. It is absolutely imperative that we remain critical and continue to fight for the rights that our forefathers have fought so hard for. These rollbacks and erasure of history threaten hard-fought rights and reinforce systemic inequities that our ancestors and civil rights leaders fought tirelessly to dismantle.



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We cannot simply celebrate Black History—we must actively defend and advance it. That means continuing the fight for justice, pushing back against policies that strip away our rights, and demanding action that uplifts Black communities.

In San Francisco, that means investing in our Black communities, implementing recommendations from the San Francisco Reparations Plan, expanding access to quality education, creating pathways for workforce development, and supporting Black homeownership and economic empowerment. Thank you to the entire Board of Supervisors for co-sponsoring and unanimously passing this important resolution today.

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month, let's honor the past by shaping a more just and equitable future—one where progress is not only recognized but protected and expanded especially in our current times.

Black History Month celebrations at City Hall:

Friday, February 7, 2025, 12:00pm to 1:00pm: The African American Historical & Cultural Society will be hosting a Black History Month Kick-Off in the Rotunda.

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 4:00pm to 6:00pm: District 10's Annual Black History Month Art Gallery in Room 279. Featuring art by Malik Seneferu, an artist born and raised in District 10.

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, evening TBD: We'll have a huge Black History Month celebration here at City Hall, more details to follow.

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